

175 years of news



By Frederick N. Rasmussen and Paul McCordell | The Baltimore Sun

This historic timeline takes a look at how throughout its long history, The Baltimore Sun has reported and reacted to local, state, national and international news events that changed and continue to influence the world.

1837 >>>



1912: A headline in The Sun finally confirms what most feared about the Titanic.

1910: The first edition of The Evening Sun makes its appearance in Baltimore.

1906: Famed journalist Henry Louis Mencken begins work at The Sun.



1904: The Great Baltimore Fire sweeps through 24 blocks of downtown. "City's most valuable buildings in ruins," The Sun's headline reads the next day.



1895: George Herman Ruth — who would become known as Babe Ruth and the "Sultan of Swat" — is born in Baltimore.

1888: Mary Garrettson Evans, The Sun's first female reporter, starts work.

1876: The Johns Hopkins University opens its doors. Johns Hopkins Hospital admits its first patient in 1889, and four years later, establishes its medical school.

1865: A black-bordered Sun bears the headline: "The National Calamity. Death Of President Lincoln. Escape Of The Assassin. The Nation In Mourning. Public Expressions of Grief."

BY TELEGRAPH.
(OFFICIAL RELEASE.)
GLORIOUS NEWS.
SURRENDER OF GEN. LEE AND HIS ARMY TO LT. GEN. GRANT.
GEN. GRANT'S TERMS COMPLIED WITH.
Preliminary Correspondence in Full.

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, April 9 — 4 P. M. — Major General D. M. New York: The War Department has just received the official report of the surrender, this day, of Gen. Lee and his army to Union Gen. Grant, in terms proposed by Gen. Grant.

1863: Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia on April 10 to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, ending the Civil War.

1863: President Abraham Lincoln signs the Emancipation Proclamation that stated slaves would be "forever free."



EXTRA THE EVENING SUN
VICTORY!
TERMS OF SURRENDER REQUIRE HUNS TO MOVE ARMIES BACK OF THE RHINE; ARMISTICE LIMITED TO THIRTY DAYS
FOCH HALTS ARMIES PROMPTLY AT 11 A. M.

1918: Germany surrenders, and crowds jam downtown Baltimore to celebrate the end of World War I.

1920: Women get the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment.



1921: James Cardinal Gibbons — who had been Roman Catholic archbishop of Baltimore for more than 40 years and confidant of several presidents, including Theodore Roosevelt — dies.

1925: The Evening Sun pays for the defense at "The Monkey Trial" of John Scopes, a biology teacher who broke a Tennessee law by teaching evolution.

1929: A stock market crash plunges the nation into the Great Depression.

1931: The Sun wins its first Pulitzer Prize in 1931, when artist Edmund Duffy is honored for political cartooning. The Sun would be awarded 14 more Pulitzers.



1933: Franklin D. Roosevelt is elected president. The next year, Adolf Hitler is named German chancellor.

1933: One of the strongest hurricanes to ever hit Maryland slices through the state, creating Assateague Island.



1952: The Bay Bridge opens for traffic and in six hours, more than 2,300 cars crossed over the 4.1-mile span.

1946: The Sunday Sun Magazine — which grew out of a sepi-colored Sunday section commonly known as the Brown Section — publishes its first issue. After a 16-year hiatus, it resumed as a magazine in 2010.

1945: U.S. forces detonate atomic bombs over two Japanese cities, effectively ending World War II.



1944: Baltimoreans awaken to an "Extra" edition that brings them the news that Allied forces had landed in Europe at Normandy.

1941: Japanese forces bomb Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States into World War II.

SEABISCUIT TOPS ADMIRAL BY THREE LENGTHS BEFORE PIMLICO CROWD OF 40,000

Sets Track Record And Shows Superior Speed And Courage Over Mile And Three-Sixteenth Route
Rises To Second Place In Turf Earnings, With Total Of \$340,000 — Race Says Victor Is Gamest That Ever Raced In U. S.

1938: More than 40,000 crowd Pimlico Race Course to watch Seabiscuit beat challenger War Admiral in a race that has been described as one of the greatest sporting events in history.

1936: In what H.L. Mencken called the "greatest story since the Crucifixion," English monarch Edward VIII abdicates his throne to marry former Baltimorean Wallis Warfield Simpson.



1953: After 51 years, big league baseball returns to Baltimore as team owners vote to move the St. Louis Browns franchise to a newly constructed Memorial Stadium on East 33rd Street.

1954: After the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, the city's public schools are integrated without incident. Future Supreme Court Justice and Baltimorean Thurgood Marshall argued the case before the court.



1957: The space race begins in earnest when the Soviet Union launches Sputnik.

1958: The city receives a post-Christmas present from the Colts when the football team beats the New York Giants, in the NFL championship game, at Yankee Stadium, 23-17, in a sudden-death period.



1963: More than 200,000 attend the March on Washington and hear the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech.



1963: President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald.

1964: President Lyndon Johnson signs the historic Civil Rights Act.



1966: After the Orioles win their first World Series, The Sun's headline says it all.

1986: Lifting off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., the shuttle Challenger explodes shortly after takeoff, killing its entire crew of seven.



Shuttle explodes after liftoff, killing 7

1984: Colts leave Baltimore in a caravan of Mayflower moving vans that take them to their new home in Indianapolis.



1983: The Orioles win the World Series, defeating the Philadelphia Phillies in five games.

1980: More than 100,000 flock to the opening of Harborplace, the \$18 million "festival marketplace" developed by the Rouse Co.

1975: The Vietnam War ends after the fall of Saigon.

1974: Ensnared in the enveloping Watergate scandal, President Richard M. Nixon resigns.

1973: Vice President Spiro T. Agnew — the former Baltimore County executive and Maryland governor — resigns after pleading nolo contendere to tax-evasion charges.



1972: Campaigning for president at a Laurel shopping center, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace is shot, leaving him paralyzed for the rest of his life.

1969: After astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin report "a very smooth landing on the moon," they take a stroll on the lunar surface.

1968: The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is slain by a gunman while standing on the balcony of a Memphis, Tenn., motel, setting off riots in several U.S. cities, including Baltimore.

1991: The first Gulf War breaks out when missiles and planes of four nations hit key targets in Iraq and Kuwait.



2008: Rodgers Forge swimmer Michael Phelps scores up eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympics.



1992: Oriole Park at Camden Yards opens to critical acclaim as streetcars — now called light rail — return for the first time since 1963.



1995: Fans at Camden Yards celebrate as Cal Ripken Jr. sets a record for playing in 2,131 consecutive games.

1995: The last edition of The Evening Sun rolls off the presses.

1996: The Ravens kick off their first season as more than 60,000 fans pack Memorial Stadium to see the team beat the Oakland Raiders 16-14.

1996: The Baltimore Sun launches Sunspot, net, which will later become baltimoresun.com.

2001: The Ravens win the Super Bowl, defeating the New York Giants, 34-7.

2001: After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, a large, grim Sun headline summed up what all were feeling.

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